

## MEDIA INFORMATION

## Sheriff's Office Launches "Help Me Home" Program

September 20, 2013— The Washington County Sheriff's Office now offers the Help Me Home program, a proactive approach to better serving residents who have difficulty communicating due to disability and who are at risk of wandering away from home.

## Help Me Home

Help Me Home is a voluntary enrollment program for adults and children who may become lost and have difficulty communicating vital information that deputies need to help them.

The Sheriff's Office will manage the Help Me Home database, which stores each registrant's photo, personal identifiers, and emergency caregiver contact information. Any deputy or police officer in the county will have access to the database from the mobile computers in their patrol vehicles.

If a registrant is found alone by law enforcement and needs help, the deputy or officer can quickly search for a match in the Help Me Home database by querying personal identifiers. When matched and confirmed with the photo, police will be able to immediately contact the appropriate caregivers to let them know their loved one has been located.

Registrants need to complete an enrollment form, sign an agreement, and pay a \$20 fee for a two-year period. All information is kept confidential and is only available to law enforcement. For more information, visit <a href="mailto:helpmehome@co.washington.or.us">helpmehome@co.washington.or.us</a>.



Phone: (503) 209-5613